

Appl. No. 10/669,499
Amdt. dated September 19, 2005
Amendment

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-38 were canceled, and claims 39-62 were pending. In this Amendment, claims 39, 40, 47, 50, 51, 52, and 58 are amended, claims 43-46, 48-49, 53-57, and 60-62 are canceled, and claims 63-64 are added, so that claims 39-42, 47, 50-52, 58-59, and 63-64 are pending. Entry of this Amendment is requested.

On September 14, 2005, an interview was conducted between the undersigned and the Examiner. The undersigned sincerely and earnestly thanks the Examiner for his careful consideration of the arguments presented by the undersigned during the interview.

Claims 39-45, 48-56, and 59-62 are rejected as being anticipated by Meng et al. In the interview, the Examiner agreed that Meng et al. does not teach or suggest, *inter alia*, "determining a predetermined number of signals, wherein the predetermined number of signals represents a minimum number of signals for a selected signal cluster" and "selecting one or more signal clusters from the plurality of signal clusters if the number of signals in a signal cluster meets or exceeds the predetermined number of signals and excluding one or more signal clusters from the plurality of signal clusters if the number of signals in a signal cluster is below the predetermined number of signals". The Examiner also agreed that if the independent claims were amended to recite this language, the rejection over Meng et al. would be withdrawn. Applicants have amended the independent claims to include this clarifying language and therefore request that the rejection based on Meng et al. be withdrawn.

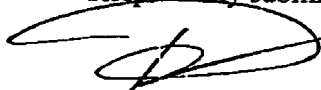
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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that would preclude allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 415-576-0200 to discuss any barriers to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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